



California Postsecondary Education Commission
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California Higher Education Accountability

GOAL: Student Success
MEASURE: Full-time to Part-time
Enrollment Ratio

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GOAL: Student Success

Are students succeeding in getting through college?

MEASURES:

- Time-to-degree
- **Full-time to Part-time Ratio**
- Student Persistence
- 4-year degrees conferred for transfer students
- CCC degrees and certificates awarded and successful transfer



Why Measuring Part-time Enrollment is Important

- There is a significant population of California students who fit into the category of “non-traditional,” and those students face greater adversity than “traditional” students in persistence and degree completion.
- Part-time enrollment is a primary risk factor in students not completing a degree program.
- The success of underrepresented populations depends on the delivery of efficient part-time programs



A Challenge of The Measure: Part-time Enrollment Levels Can Mean Different Things

- For example, part-time enrollment can indicate the following:
 - High part-time enrollment is typically an indicator of favorable access to higher education;
 - High part-time enrollment may demonstrate the campus dedication to efficient use of facilities, offering night and weekend classes are catering to non-traditional students;
 - Low or declining part-time enrollment combined with increasing time-to-degree rates may indicate that students are taking classes they do not need because other classes are impacted



Consider the Institutional Missions . . .

- UC encourages full-time enrollment to “provide the richest academic experience for students.”
- CSU mission implies that part-time enrollment is supported as a means for providing opportunities for students who face certain financial or personal adversity.
- By differing missions, it is expected that CSU will enroll a higher percentage of part-time students than the UC
- For the CCC, part-time enrollment is a fundamental component to the mission of providing access to all students. This study examines rates only at the 4-year institutions.



Part-time Percentages Among Undergraduates

- Both UC and CSU has had a decline in PT enrollment since 2000:

Average Part-Time Rates per System		
	UC	CSU
Year	Percent Part-time	Percent Part-time
2000	7.0%	23.4%
2001	6.9%	23.0%
2002	6.6%	22.3%
2003	6.3%	22.0%
2004	5.6%	20.7%
2005	5.3%	20.6%



Part-time Percentages Among Undergraduates

- All racial/ethnic groups declined in PT enrollment rates
- Both males and female declined in PT enrollment rates
- Most campuses in both systems had a decline in PT enrollment rates
 - Only UC San Diego and CSU Chico, Dominguez Hills, San Bernardino, and Stanislaus remained constant in PT enrollment or had a modest (less than 1%) increase.



Fiscal Impact of Part-time Enrollment

- There are fixed administrative costs associated with a students' education that remain constant whether the student attends part-time or full-time
- The additional cost of an individual enrolling part-time is borne by the student, not the state
- Do the institutions assume a cost burden for enrolling students PT or are all expenses absorbed by student fees (the same amount in campus-based fees apply to all students)?



Subsidy and Fee Amounts for Full-time and Part-time Students

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY Three Sample Cost Analyses

Student A Attends Full-Time	Student B Attends Part-Time	Student C Attends Part-Time
30 Units Per Year	20 Units Per Year	15 Units Per Year
4 Years to Completion	6 Years to Completion	8 Years to Completion
\$7,839 Subsidy per Year x 4 Years Total State Cost = \$31,356	\$5,252 Subsidy per Year x 6 Years Total State Cost = \$31,512	\$3,920 Subsidy per Year x 8 Years Total State Cost = \$31,360
Student pays full cost for two full-time terms plus campus fees \$3,164 student fees per year x 4 years Total Student Fee Cost = \$12,656	Student pays full cost for two full-time terms plus campus fees \$3,164 student fees per year x 6 years Total Student Fee Cost = \$18,984	Student pays cost for one full-time term and one part-time term plus campus fees \$1,260 (FT) + \$732 (PT) + \$679 student fees per year x 8 years Total Student Fee Cost = \$21,368



The Price of Part-time

- Part-time students pay about 67% the amount of total fees that full-time students pay.
- Part-time students at UC and CSU annually borrow 88% of the amount that full-time students borrow (SEARS Data, 2003-2004)
- Part-time students at 4-year public schools will incur 4-6% more debt upon graduation than full-time students (NCES Data)



Policy Options

- Some CSU campus have a “pledge” to graduate, within four years, students who follow certain guidelines to completion
- Expansion of PACE (Program for Adult and Continuing Education) to include more degree options
- Establishing colleges on campus that specifically enroll part-time students.
- Administrative and counseling offices that are open during nights and weekends



In Conclusion

- California has an increasingly diverse population and the educational opportunities must reflect the varying needs of its citizens
- In order to insure access for all students, part-time enrollment opportunities must be available and they must work efficiently
- Students should be counseled on the additional cost of attending part-time and be advised of the most direct pathway toward completion